

UNITED STATES ARMY
THE CHIEF OF STAFF

11 June 1956

Executive Order
12800

Handwritten signature/initials

Dear Allen:

You were very kind to forward me the CIA study on "Brainwashing". The report has been carefully studied by appropriate agencies of the Army Staff. All agree that it is an excellent discussion which should clarify some of the misunderstanding that surrounds current thinking concerning the "brainwash process". The detailed descriptions of the Russian and Chinese interrogation techniques are well done and should prove of interest and value to intelligence personnel.

There is, however, one implied conclusion in the study which is at variance with Army records. I refer to the statement that certain repatriated prisoners of war who had been "brainwashed" were tried by courts-martial. Actually, before initiating court-martial proceedings against any prisoner of war, the issue of mental responsibility received careful consideration, and in no case was this factor substantiated as a valid defense during trial.

In appreciation for your thoughtfulness in providing me with the opportunity to review the study and with warm regards,

Sincerely,

Max

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE		
1	CD/P 1 JUN 1956	[Signature]	15 June STAT		
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	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY		
	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION		
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN		
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE		
Remarks: <p>For preparation of reply for the Director's signature. The Director said he wanted this handled promptly.</p> <p>1 to 2: Please prepare the reply to this letter, including some explanation of the point which General Taylor raises in paragraph 2.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Richard Helms</p> <p style="text-align: right;">STAT [Signature] CK</p>					
STAT FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.					DATE
[Signature] 15 June 56					